

Zagreb, Croatia: 2006 Crime and Safety Report

CRIME AND SAFETY

Europe - Croatia

21 Apr 2006

Overall Crime and Safety Situation

Zagreb enjoys a relatively low crime rate. During the last quarter of 2005, however, there was a string of armed robberies in the Zagreb area targeting banks, post offices and gambling venues. Additionally, there has been an increase in shootings in bars and nightclubs frequented by known criminal elements. Anecdotal reports suggest there has also been an increase in the number of confrontational crimes. Fortunately, there are no reports indicating that Americans living in or visiting Croatia have been targeted in these crimes. Police have responded directly with increased deployment of plainclothes and uniformed patrols throughout the greater Zagreb area.

Croatia is becoming an increasingly important tourist destination, especially its Adriatic coastal regions of Istria and Dalmatia. The reported crime rates in these areas are also low, but there has been a slight increase in petty street crimes and document thefts during the peak summer season months.

Political Violence

Political violence is a rare occurrence. There are occasional labor union and veteran group demonstrations directed towards local government policies but, in recent years, they have been generally peaceful. Since 2003, there have not been demonstrations directed at the U.S. Embassy in Zagreb.

Post-Specific Concerns

Zagreb is located within a seismically active region and minor tremors are occasionally felt. Fortunately, the last large-scale earthquake in or around Zagreb occurred in 1880.

Americans are reminded that Croatian law requires all visitors to register with the police upon entering the country. This registration can normally be taken care of during hotel check-in.

Police Presence

The nationwide police emergency number is 92. In the Zagreb region, the police try to maintain English-speaking operators on duty at all times; however, this is not usually the case in other areas of the country. Police support provided to foreign crime victims has been consistently satisfactory and timely.

Medical Emergencies

The nationwide medical emergency number is 94, the fire emergency number is 93. The medical dispatch center also tries to maintain English speakers on duty. The primary trauma hospital is "Traumatologija" located at Draskoviceva 19, Zagreb, phone (385) 1 461-0011. Air ambulance companies based in Austria service Croatia. Check with your insurance provider for preferred provider contact information.

Tips on How to Avoid Becoming a Victim

Although criminal incidents involving visitors to Croatia are rare, travelers should exercise the same precautions against street crime as they would in any major urban city in the U.S. The embassy has not received any complaints about the fraudulent use of credit cards or ATM machines. Even so, common precautions should be exercised in using these cards. Keep banking and credit card customer service numbers stored separately in case of loss or theft.

For Further Information

In addition to the State Department website information pages, www.travel.state.gov, the U.S. Embassy Zagreb website, www.usembassy.hr, is being updated to better serve as a resource for both the tourist and business traveler.

An OSAC Country Council has been developed in Zagreb. For more information, or to become a member, please contact the Regional Security Office or OSAC's Eastern Europe Regional Coordinator, or visit <http://zagreb.osac.gov>.

Embassy phone numbers:

Embassy operator during business hours: 385-1-661-2200

Consular and American citizen services: 385-1-661-2300

Foreign Commercial Service: 385-1-661-2909

Regional Security Office: 385-1-661-2259